

OTMC BULLETIN



Newsletter of the Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

781 May 2017



Cloud Forest and Escarpment Track : Dunedin Views : Tomas Sobek



May Trips & Events

Gunns Camp, Hollyford
Rosella Ridge

Government Track
Big Rock, Little Rock, Ben Rudd

Jubilee Hut

Kea Basin

Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club, PO Box 1120, Dunedin

www.otmc.co.nz facebook.com/groups/otmcnz otmc@ihug.co.nz

Thursday meeting at 3 Young St, South Dunedin Doors open 7:30 for 8pm start, all welcome

Committee Report : Sharen Rutherford, Daytrip Convener

I am fairly new to the club joining last year and like most things like to be involved hence being lucky to join the committee. I have recently come back to tramping after a sizable gap in which I was a keen runner among other things. My first love will always be the water and just love the ocean with a couple of recent surfing trips in warmer waters. Would be fair to say I am out tramping a lot and have in the last 10 months completed 31 tramps so about 3 per month on average which explains why I don't seem to be home much. I have a couple of friends in Canterbury whom I tramp with at least once a month having once lived in Christchurch so know the area well. I have recently completed the "St James" and "Cass & Lagoon Saddles" and have planned shortly the "Croesus Crossing" and "Tongariro Crossing" and early next year will be climbing Mt Kinabalu so I think it is about time I bring some photos along to BYO night.

What draws me to tramping is the challenge of the outdoors and being able to shut down all that unnecessary thinking which comes with our modern world and work stresses. I love the physical challenge and meeting different people.

The other aspect of tramping is standing on your own two feet, the team work and seeing how you cope in different situations. I had an unfortunate experience August last year in a tramp which went horribly wrong with a member of our party getting hurt and having to wait the night out in rough conditions before getting airlifted by SAR the following morning. It was one of those situations where a combination of things came together that could have resulted in a possible loss of life situation and we had a lot of experience in the group and the lesson was simple and about looking after the basic's and ensuring people are communicating at all times.

I have tramped with other clubs and think we have something special here at OTMC. We have a lot of passionate experienced people and open to change.

The day trip convener role is interesting and a good way to learn the ropes quickly. We have a lot of members who have the right skills and experience but just need to take that step and lead a day trip. Talking with Alan Thompson recently we agreed where else can you learn and practice leadership skills without have to pay a training fee.

OTMC Bank Account

The OTMC bank account with ASB is ... **12-3150-0311684-00**

Please include your name and the reason for the payment when using internet banking (which is the preferred option). Non-members must pay for trips when signing the trip list, members should pay before departure.

Vehicle suppliers/drivers will normally not pay the trip fee and will be reimbursed fuel costs later (check with the trip leader or Treasurer Rodger if in doubt).

Gear Hire

OTMC has a large amount of gear available for members to hire. Hire charge \$5 for up to a week, then \$5 per week. See or phone Gene (455 7465) or Sam (0272 864 836).

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Ice Axes | • Packs | • Climbing Helmets |
| • Crampons | • Tents/Flys | • Avalanche Probes and Transceivers |
| • Cookers & Billies | • Personal Locator Beacons | |

Your Committee

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Leaning Lodge (Immediate Past President Daytrip mentor) : Alan Thomson	455 7878	thomson@ihug.co.nz

Membership Debbie Pettinger, Membership Secretary

We welcome 6 new members this month:

- Mark Stephenson
- Rob Cookson
- Amy Richardson
- Mandy Mok
- Ken and Rowan Aitcheson

This brings the total OTMC membership to 234 members. It is thanks to a very successful Bushcraft this year that has seen 29 new members joining after the course. A number of these new members have already completed their first weekend and/or day trip with the club and we encourage everyone to take the time to say hello and make new people feel welcome.

OTMC Members were saddened to learn of the death on 17th April of Ken Mason, Life Member.

Ken was still an active club member and often came to our Thursday meetings.

Richard Forbes attended his funeral and spoke on OTMC's behalf, also present were a number of current and past members. The committee arranged a floral tribute.

Trip Reports

Club activities over the past months

Sullivans Dam to the Cloud Forest / Escarpment Track : 9th April

It was a beautiful autumn morning when we left the Clubrooms at 9.00. We drove past the competitors in the Three Peak Race, and we hoped that we would not meet them on the tracks. We headed to Sullivans Dam which we arrived at 9.40. There were sections of board walk and steps which made the ascent of the first section of the track, the Cloud Forest of Leith, a lot easier. The bush



Leonie Loeber

was beautiful and very peaceful – there was very little birdsong. We arrived at the transmissions line at 10.30 where we had morning tea. We had spectacular views to the north, the skies were still clear and there was a slight breeze.

The next part of the track, the Escarpment Track, was a scramble and quite muddy in places. The bush was still beautiful and there was a little bit more bird song. We had lunch at 1.30 at a rocky outcrop with spectacular views of coast and farmland. As we wandered along the Escarpment Track we were thinking about 'how lucky we are' which was sadly appropriate as it turned out, as John Clark aka Fred Dagg passed away on Sunday.

Once we had finished the Escarpment Track we walked up the A H Reed Track to the TV tower. The track goes through regenerating native bush and over volcanic boulders.

Here we were again treated to beautiful 360° degree views of the city and peninsula. From the AH Reed Track we wandered back down Cowan Road, the Three Peaks Track, through some pine forest, over farm paddocks, and back to the cars at 3.10.

Tony had learnt his 'hook grass lesson' from last time and on Sunday he wore long shorts and high gaiters. A few of us had hook grass, but I don't think as bad as what Tony experienced last time he did the walk. Thank you Tony for a great walk and to everyone else for your company.

Further information on the Cloud Forests of Leith and the Escarpment Track may be found in *Dunedin Tracks and Trails* by Antony Hamel and the OTMC pamphlet *Dunedin Skyline Walk – Sullivan's Dam to Mt Cargill* prepared by Antony Pettinger. (Note: this is available on the OTMC website.)

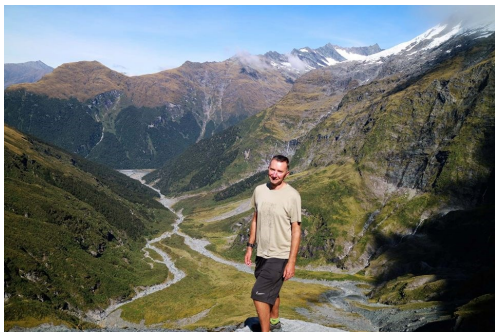
Leonie Loeber for Tony Timperley, Tomas Sobek,

Peter Loeber, Mark Stephenson, Mandy Mok, Lynley Copland, Ash Flintoff, Ken Taylor, Alan Hanson and Sandy Webb.

East Matukituki – Otago Anniversary Weekend :18-20 March

I said in my organisation email that we'd camp Friday night on the righthand side of the road at Alberttown, of course meaning the left. Dave's car went up early and decided to stay on the right, to catch a German poetry evening being delivered at 10:30pm, so in fact I was right all along. The rest of us arrived just before 10, got the tents set up and hopped into bed about 10:20 all set for a good night's sleep...Suddenly a German Poetry reading started with multiple participants (German poetry is more about volume and overspeaking each other than quality) A

short time later it was accompanied by some background duf duf music. I know all this sounds horrible but actually it was much much worse. Luckily for them the rain started and things quietened down because the next morning we all discovered that every single one of us was just about to get up and remind them who won the bloody war anyway.



Looking down Rainbow Stream to Aspiring Flat (and Rodger) by Rodger

Sat morning we all headed to Cameron Flat and met up with the independent members. Trevor had a look at the river crossing and unfortunately with the godsend rain from the night before it was decided it was a bit high to cross safely so it was back in the cars and up to the bridge crossing. We stopped at Glacier Burn and dropped packs. Most of us headed up the glacier burn track but with low cloud around we couldn't see up to the glacier. It was back to the packs for lunch with the cows before heading off. I hadn't been here in over a decade so the track had a lot more ups and downs than I remember. We came to a nice section of river and before you could say "I love german poetry" Tina had jumped in. The water did look inviting so I had to jump in too and before you knew it everyone else....decided to stay warm and dry.

We headed to Aspiring flat, North Otago Tramping Club had beaten us there and probably got the prime camping spot, but Antony and Debbie had met our first arrivals and indicated a spot near the head of the valley that was dry. Dave came down with terrible cramp as we neared camp, but carrying in all that alcohol was still worth it. (Alcohol: The cause of, and solution to, all of life's problems)

Sunday morning 4 decided to hang round the valley for the day and 19 set off up Rainbow stream. I could see the best way to go on the map so I said to the advance group we should

head up the untrue left hand creek somewhere around the 4th, 5th or 6th side creek give or take a creek or two. Simple. Well you'd think so but apparently not because instead of heading up the nice grassy meadow with wildflowers we headed up a loose rocky steep slippery slope. I haven't had so much fun since the last German poetry evening I tried to sleep through!

At about the halfway point we stopped for lunch in two groups, while admiring the waterfalls turning into rainbows on the surrounding cliffs. The group at the back decided this was a good turnaround point while the group ahead kept going with about 7 getting to the summit, a splendid achievement and one of which you should all be proud. I don't think it's important to name names here, after all we were all there in spirit and at the end of the day that's what counts. (Just ask Bourdillon and Evans...who?)

The summiteers got back around 5:30 and it was time for evening meal. I had a wander round to see what's cooking - and to check out who I'm going to put in my food group next trip I run (Is that an abuse of power?) - The winners will be announced next snow-farm trip, everyone else chop chop - you need to pick up your food game!



River Crossing (wading?) : Peter Boeckhout

We walked out on the Monday. The rivers had dropped since we came in, so some went back by river crossings and some stayed on the track. We were back at the cars before we knew it and had a late lunch in Wanaka. All in all another great tramping club trip and a good time had by all and might I add it was expertly led with clear directions given at all times!

Rodger for Antony , Debbie , Trevor, Ross, Morag, Mike, Conler, Nathan, Maria, Sue, Rose, Tina, James, Michael, Andrea, Ralph, John, Peter, Mark, Rob, Sharen, Dave, Maree and Tania

Taieri Millennium Track from Henley to Taieri Mouth : 26 March

An optimistic group of 17 people headed away from the OTMC Clubrooms at 9 am on Sunday, 26 March in what started out as ideal conditions, all hopeful that we would have enough time before the forecast of a wet cooler front was expected to arrive later in the afternoon. It was a good call on Peter's part to start at Henley Bridge end – 'just in case' so we could have a pretty sheltered walk should we get caught out in it.

We set off along the side of the river bank on a very well maintained track and it was pretty much how Ivan Booth remembered it when he worked on it way back in the 1980s with the DOC. The river was so still that it produced the most amazing mirror image of the surrounding bush. Bird song was noticeably lively with chattering tui, two cheeky wood pigeons and fantails accompanying us along a good part of the way.

The track climbed quite steeply in places and provided a really solid work out, being overcast and a bit cooler was a bit of a blessing!

Morning tea was had in an idyllic setting – we had followed a well signposted track pointing towards John Bull Gully when it opened up to a manicured picnic spot near the water's edge, complete with two picnic tables, an information board and a large tree which provided a bit of shelter from the light drizzle that had begun to fall. It was so lovely that it was a shame to not have been able to stay longer. A great spot to take your out of town

friends and family!

The gorgeous canopy of trees and bush sheltered us from the steadily increasing drizzle, so we made our way to the top of the hill, it opened out a little more and there was a brilliant little viewing area that had unobstructed views of Taieri Island and then back up the Taieri River – a perfect place for a lunch break.

From our vantage point, we could see that the weatherman did indeed do a good job with his forecast and as promised, although a little early, the rain was truly setting in. So we decided that as we'd all had a lovely tramp and were all quite happy to head back while we were all relatively dry and comfortable.

In all, it ended up being just shy of 15kms and no doubt for those that haven't done the whole track from Henley to Taieri Mouth; it will be revisited with much enthusiasm. A fabulous track which was enjoyed by all.

Tania McMillan for Peter (leader) and Leonie Loeber, Ken Taylor, Ivan Booth, Ash Flintoff, Sarah Hayes, Nuria Guerrer, Greg McMillan, Guy Howat, Lucy Jones, Barbara McCabe, Jane McCabe, Claire Canning, Helen Collins, Carolyn Vincent, Jeff Smith.

North Otago : April 1-2

Small, Short and Successful!

This tramping weekend had a small number (good, because then I don't have to count



Millennium Track, a good turnout : Sarah Hayes

beyond 5 and can keep the flock in sight), relatively short distances (longest was about 14km), and I think fairly successful overall.

I was joined in Dunedin by Sarah Hayes and also Eroni Sotutu from the Phys Ed dept at the University. He plays rugby for Southern so I knew that his fitness wouldn't be a problem! We managed to get out of Dunedin by 5.45pm and drove to the Danseys Pass camping ground, arriving at dusk. Sarah and I sorted out cabins and Eroni had his tent up by the time Kathy and Chris got in. I explained the plan of the weekend – my worst fear was not rain, but fog! There is a bit of tricky navigation needed on the Dome Hills and if you can't see ...!

We left the camp at 8.30am and drove up to Dome Hills station. The road was in fairly good condition, the yards weren't muddy, nor the ruts too deep! And, blessings of blessings there was NO fog at the road end, though it covered the Waitaki Valley way below us. And no wind. And no rain forecast! There was high cloud all day but it wasn't cold and I think that the uphill sections would have been tiring if the sun had been shining brightly. On with the packs and a good hour of walking along a farm track took us nearly to the top. Then it was off track for 2½ hours. Well, not quite off track: the topomap indicates a track and indeed it was visible in places, but much of it was just plodding downhill on or near a ridge. Always keeping off the righthand side of the ridge 'cause the drop off that side is terrifyingly steep!

We found one gate down and off its hinges so we managed to sort-of get it upright and secure. Still didn't look quite right but at least stock couldn't find the gap!

Finally got to the bottom of Dome Hill by about 11.45am but we didn't linger long over our food, as the cattle were also interested in us. From the lunch spot, we could see the track back up to the top where the cars were – steep and long! What we couldn't see from

where we sat for lunch was just around the corner. We found out 5 minutes later: a very large bull who was taking great care of his cows! Had to skirt around the corner of the paddock, instead of taking the straight track, and then nip quickly through a fence before he could notice!

In the event, the road up didn't take as long as it looked, before a couple of km on a contoured track (we passed Balmoral forest on the way) to return to the cars

A good meal in the camp – some kids were toasting marshmallows on an open fire too, so that was fun. A good nights sleep and daylight saving ended.

Sunday, we didn't get an extra sleep-in, in spite of the end of daylight saving! We left the camp at 7.30am! (8.30 new time). I'd threatened a 90minute road walk before the track proper, but in the end we did a car shuffle up to the Livingstone Cemetery where the track began. I knew beforehand where the track started, but not where it finished, so we were really just doing an exploration!



North Otago : Sarah Hayes

The start is well marked with a slightly faded orange marker arrow. It then goes down a fence-line and fire-break. At the bottom of the firebreak it is NOT clearly marked at the point where a right-hand turn is needed! Some old scrub had a faded spray paint in orange so I took that to mean a marker, and then more faded spraypaint-on-scrub followed.

Eventually the track goes into plantation forest and from then on it IS clearly marked,

though we did have the odd difference of opinion about where to go!

It was really useful to have a GPS and also a paper map.

It took about 90+ minutes from start to finish, and we then did a car shuffle to get the car back from the start. Though I think it would be possible to do a round trip either starting

and finishing at the Livingstone Cemetery OR starting and finishing at the motor camp. (I think the track is used by motor-cross folk 'cause there were motor-bike tracks in the mud in places).

My thanks to my companions, Sarah, Eroni, Kathy and Chris, for their tolerance, patience and cheerfulness! Jane Cloete



OTMC and FMC Photo Competitions.

We are encouraging members to enter our own club photo competition and then for the winners to enter the nationwide FMC competition.

IMPORTANT DATES ...

4th and 25th May Thursday evenings (see back page)

29th June: Closing date for OTMC entries. Photographer Allan Cox will be the judge of the OTMC competition.

20th July: Allan will show and discuss the merits of the winners of our OTMC photo winners, which will then go on to the FMC competition.

Rules (to align with FMC):

- Photo's taken in NZ from 1st January 2015 onwards can be entered (and all Historic ones).
- Apart from cropping, adjustments for exposure, white balance, contrast & levels and the stitching of panoramas, no digital manipulation is allowed (including removal or insertion of features not in the original image).
- Image files must be in .jpg or .tif format with a minimum of 1Mb and named ...
Category OtagoTMC Your-Name Your-photo-caption
(spaces between, eg BBW OtagoTMC John Smith Through the Forest)

Categories: ABN Above Bushline (no human element)
ABW Above Bushline (with human element)
BBN Below Bushline (no human element)
BBW Below Bushline (with human element)
BBN Below Bushline (no human element)
HIS Historic (older photos with historic significance)
NFF Native Flora and Fauna

(FMC: "The definition of what is a "Human Element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains anything other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment then we would define that as having "a Human element". But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as "No Human Element".

Dumb-bell Lake and the Korean War

It was July 1953, the Korean War had just ended, and a young serviceman named Stafford Weatherall returned to New Zealand to pursue his dream. Throughout the war, his dream had given him something positive to hold on to – a wish to have his own high-country station.

The dream was realised in the late 1950s, when official approval was given to freehold Lake Ohau Station once the boundaries were surveyed and title was able to be issued. (All this was long before tenure review, and the demands of modern tourism.)

Instructions were issued for the survey work to commence and from late January 1960 until early April of the same year, two 3-man survey teams completed all work from the Mt Sutton and Shingle Peak ridges east to the Lake, including the river flats south of the Temple Stream. We were young, fit and loved the mountains.

During this time, we had the opportunity to ride in the first jet boat reputedly sold from the Hamilton production line. It was owned by Murray Douglas, manager of the Ohau Ski Field and the local airstrip. Murray insisted on showing us just how versatile his boat was as it could cut corners by simply whizzing over the gravel bars. It was no surprise to find him with another boat the following year once he'd discovered the abrasive effects of river gravels on fibreglass.

Summer of 1961 rolled around, with our instructions this year to survey all boundaries west of the Mt Sutton and Shingle Peak ridges, including traversing along the Barrier Range from a then unnamed peak to Mt Maitland. Little did we know what we were in for.

This year, the two 3-man survey teams were based separately, one team (mine) headed for the Forest Service hut near the head of the Maitland Valley, the other to the Forest Service hut in the South Temple.

Our first priority was to climb the unnamed peak chosen as the south-west corner of the run, establish a control station there, then begin the rather difficult traverse down the leading ridge to the valley floor. Over the next 10 days, we completed the boundary survey as far as Dumb-bell Lake, where we'd established a fly camp. Late afternoon that

same day, the sky turned yellow-orange, that coupled with a north-westerly, usually signifies snow is on the way. The other two team members took some convincing, but shortly before dark, we uprooted camp and headed up and over Mt Sutton. Moving down through the boulder field in the dark to the (then) ski hut was not easy, but the three of us arrived at the hut with only minor scrapes and bruises.

Next day, my prayers were answered and my credibility rated soared. SNOW. Unfortunately, with it came fog, so field work was out of the question for the next few days. Eventually, the weather cleared and we were able to get back to Dumb-bell Lake, complete the remaining boundary traverses there and retrieve the gear we'd stashed on our hasty retreat some days ago.

We'd long established that there was no way of traversing along the Barrier Range ridge and that some other method would be required. A calibrated Leica camera, borrowed from the Antarctic Division, was mounted above a top-order Wild theodolite and photographs taken of the range at prescribed angles from Mt Sutton, Bob's Knob, Shingle Hill and a couple of other trigs. This allowed the ridge line to be plotted with amazing accuracy.

(Note: all this was accomplished before computers, GPS, electronic distance measuring devices and freeze dried!)

Once the plans were produced and boundaries and areas determined, Stafford Weatherall got his wish. In today's situation, of course, such an event would never have occurred. However, a short time after Staff's untimely death, his widow, Mary, placed major parts of Lake Ohau Station under a QEII covenant. Hopefully, the delightful valleys of the Maitland and South Temple will now be protected for posterity.

In addition to this, Staff also has a peak named after him. It's that south west corner-stone of the run which is appropriately named Mt Stafford (2208m)

Finally, back to the title of the story. If anyone comes across a contact lens lying in the grass at the best campsite at Dumb-bell Lake, it's mine. And no, after all these years, I don't really want it back!

Ron Keen, Life Member

May Day Walks

Club Saturday & Sunday Trip List for the month (day tramps and events)

*Unless otherwise stated day trips leave from the club rooms on Saturday/Sunday at 9am
If the weather is in doubt give the trip leader a phone call to check.*

Sun 7 May: Government Track (M) \$10 **Dave Bunn 0297797006 or 4534227**

Government Track starts approximately 5km up the Waipori Falls Road on the true left.

This is an underrated DOC track with large tracts of mature beech, manuka and broadleaf forest. On recent excursions there has been an abundant variety of native birds. The track offers awesome views of the Waipori Valley, and from Kowhai Spur at 502 metres, the Taieri Plains stretching out to Lake Waiholo and Taieri Mouth.

This track was cut in the 1860's to provide access for packhorses to the Central gold-fields and it has a consistent gentle gradient. The track starts with a short steep section of switch back track and then it is an easy walk up the flank of the Waipori Valley with a couple of short muddy patches. Reaching the top the track follows a 4wd road to Kowhai Spur and a rapid descent down to Koefods Road and return to Waipori Road car park. The track is 8.24 km to the top and the forested area provides good shelter in most weather conditions. The tramp will be approximately 5 hours duration including stops for lunch and snacks. Wearing boots and gaiters recommended.

14th May: Jubilee Hut 10th Anniversary **Day trip. Antony Pettinger 473 7924**

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the new hut. (see April Bulletin)

Sun 21 May: Rosella Ridge (M) \$5 **Tomas Sobek 777 3047**

We will walk along Green Ridge until we reach the exposed part few hundred metres short of Pulpit Rock summit. Turning onto Rosella Ridge starts with a well trodden few metres of track, just until the sign discouraging people to proceed any further. Understandably the track is not as well trodden after that - in fact you might get a bit scratched if you are wearing shorts on this trip. This track hasn't been maintained for years now and gets overgrown in places. Ideally we will have a lunch break at a view point 633 metres above sea level, and then continue along the ridge until we find H.A.T.#1 - Hunter access track #1. This will bring us down to Waikouaiti Stream and then steeply up, back onto Mountain Road where we started.

Sun 28th May: Big Rock, Little Rock, **Ben Rudd and Bush Bashing** **(E/M) \$5 Jan Burch 027 455 4559**

Getting to know your property has never been more fun. We'll visit Big Rock, Little Rock and Ben Rudd's Hut via three conventional tracks, but we'll also test our navigational skills with a series of compass- or GPS-guided legs reminiscent of Bushcraft Navigation Days. This trip is rated E/M because although the day will be short, the bushbashing part of the day will be anything but Easy! Bring gaiters, willingness to feel a little lost and unlimited confidence in your leader. (Small stones work better than breadcrumbs according to Hansel and Gretel)

The proceeds of our recent Auction, \$367, have been donated to the Ben Rudd Trust for purchase of traps to help keep our place free of pesky creatures !



May Weekends

Club Trip List for the month (weekend overnight tramps and events)

You must pre-register on the Trip List at the club rooms (or contact the leader direct) before the closing date (normally two weeks before the trip start). Members must pay before departure, non-members upon registering. Vehicle providers may be exempt from the fee (check with the leader). Trip organisational details will follow by email.

*You are responsible for your gear and medical / first-aid needs (also see Gear Hire).
(E)asy, (M)edium, (F)itness required.*

6-7th May: Gunns Camp **Day Trips in Hollyford Valley** **(All) \$55+ Wayne Hodgkinson 473 0950**

The camp previously owned by Davey Gunn, followed by his son Murray, is now run by the Hollyford Museum Charitable Trust.

There are cabins, a backpacker dorm, kitchen, hot showers, toilets – all those mod cons we think necessary when we are not actually tramping.

An example of trips available from this base include Gertrude Saddle (depending on ice) 4 to 6 hours, Lake Marian 3 hrs, Key Summit 3 hrs, Hidden Falls 4–5 hrs, and various shorter day walks or even an energetic climb up the Deadman's (a Fit 8 hours return) to the Routeburn.

Or you might just want a relaxing time to read a book or go fishing.

Accommodation cost depends on numbers, but will be around \$25 each per night if we have 12 people. We will need to bring cash as there are no eftpos facilities at the camp. There is a 10% surcharge for Visa or Mastercard. The trip fee is \$55 (\$67 for non-members).

Further information on the camp is available at <http://www.gunnscamp.org.nz/>

13-14th May: Jubilee Hut 10th Anniversary **Antony Pettinger 473 7924**

Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the new hut. (see April Bulletin)

3-5th June: Queen's Birthday **Mount Somers (M) \$TBA** **Peter Boechhout 021 023 62535**

The proposed plan: enjoying the Mt Somers area for 3 days.

We drive to Woolshed Creek carpark on Friday evening 6pm sharp, arrival 11pm and camp for the night. Saturday via the Rhyolite track and the Bus Stop to Woolshed Creek hut (26 bunks) which could be our Base. Sunday, we head up the North Face track towards the saddle where we head up a 300m steep rocky climb towards the beginning of the summit walk. Where we soak up the views 360 degrees (weather permitting :-)) Next day we walk out via 1 of 3 options depending on our keenness: the 4wd track, 1hour 15min. the miners track, 2,5 hours or via the bus stop which will take us a bit over 3 hours but with fabulous views. If the summit is covered in clouds we could do a walk towards the Pinnacles hut and even to the Sharplin Falls carpark, this track is more challenging than the miners track. There is an option for the very keen trampers among us to tramp to Pinnacles hut (19 bunks) via the South Face (9hours), next day via the summit to Woolshed Creek hut (7hours) and an easy walk out on Monday morning. But this only when there is no snow.

Anything is possible, it is all about enjoying the outdoors and what is possible.

Trip list closes Thursday 25th May.

20-21st May: Kea Basin/Rees Valley **(M) \$45 Richard Forbes 03 453 1327**

The Rees Valley is at the head of Lake Wakatipu and is part of the popular Rees/Dart circuit. We will camp at the road end at Muddy Creek on the Friday night where there are reasonable tent sites and a toilet

Kea basin is a hanging valley below Mt Earnslaw and the views are great, above the bushline so no sandflies. The main Rees River will need to be crossed to get there so conditions need to be right for the crossing. It

is a short climb from the valley floor to Kea Basin. There is a great bivvy rock near the basin and the old historic Earnslaw Hut is down in the bush, but the main option will be tents by the stream in Kea Basin itself. The more energetic can climb towards Esquilant Bivvy for even more views. On the way back

on Sunday the old derelict 25 Mile Hut on the true left of the Rees can be visited.

Other options are up the Rees Valley track to the DOC Shelter Rock Hut and back

Trip list closes 11th May.

May Thursday Meetings

Thursday Club Social Meetings at the Club Rooms 3 Young Street, South Dunedin

Members, non-members, visitors , all are welcome to these social events.

Doors open at 7:30 for an 8 pm start

4th May: FMC 2016 Photo Competition Winners. These photos from each category also have useful comments from the judges.

11th May: Antony Hamel : Current issues regarding public access - a lawyer's ranting. This should be a concern for all trampers. It is also an issue that the club has had a long history with being involved in. What are some of the current issues? What are some possible trends for the future?

This will be illustrated with images from this years Cavalcade walking trip from Lindis Pass to St Bathans and other places.

18th May: BYO – Besides showing photos from just the recent trips, you could also show some of what you consider to be some of your best tramping/mountaineering shots to see how they project on the screen.

25th May: Photographer Allan Cox will give us a presentation on how to take very good photos. As Allan says: The art of photography lies not in taking ordinary photos of the extraordinary, but in taking extraordinary photo's of the ordinary."

May 2017						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FR	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4 FMC 2016 photos	5	6	7 Govt Track with David
					Gunn's Camp with Jill & Ray 454 4211	
8 Cmte	9	10	11 Antony Hamel Lawyer !	12	13	14 Jubilee Hut Day trip
					Jubilee Hut with Antony 473 7924	
15	16	17	18 BYO photos	19	20	21 Rosella Ridge with Tomas
					Kea Basin with Richard 453 1327	
22	23	24	25 Allan Cox Photo show	26	27	28 Big Rock, Little Rock, Ben Rudd with Jan
29	30	31				